

Week Three: *We Are Pathfinders*
John 10:1-15

Spending FIFTEEN – Day One

1. In terms of getting through life, do you think there is one true path for everyone or an individual path for each person?
2. Thinking about how you answered the first question, read Psalm 16. How do you think the author of this psalm (David from the Bible) would answer that previous question?
3. Read verse 11 about the “path of life.” God is making a promise in this verse. Is God promising that he’ll put you on this path in the future, or that he has already put you on the path of life? (Go to biblegateway.com and look at other translations to help you wrestle with this question.)
4. Why does the distinction between present and future matter for someone who is trying to trust in this psalm?
5. Where on the path is a person who isn’t actively following God in their own life?
6. Does it feel to you like you are on the path of life? Why or why not?
7. We’re going to spend this week evaluating our own paths in order to have better footing for the path God wants us to find. As you finish your FIFTEEN, pray to God and ask him to set your feet firmly on the path he has for you!

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. If your life story was a series of chapters, which chapter would be your favorite? Which one your least favorite?
9. Read Psalm 16:1-2. Where does all of our good come from?
10. It’s important to recognize the chapters in our life during which God’s goodness came through. Take a few minutes and write down between 5 and 10 of the most pivotal “turning points” in your life. It might be having met somebody, having experienced a success or a failure, or having gone through a loss.
11. Now look at these turning points and rate them on a scale of 10 to *negative* 10 based on how positive or negative each event was.
12. Now look at these events as a whole. What might be a theme of the life—the path—that you’ve been living?

13. Look more closely at the negative turning points. What is something good that has come out of even the worst moments in your life?
14. End your FIFTEEN by giving thanks to God that he is faithful to bring blessing in spite of—or even *through*—the negative things that happen to us on our journey.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. If you had to go on a show like *The Amazing Race*, who would you pick to be your travel buddy, and why?
16. Now read Psalm 16:3-4. What kind of people is David describing in this section?
17. What is the effect of these people on David's journey?
18. You have an effect on others' journeys. Think about the various roles you play among the people in your life. Write down the five most important roles that you fill (spouse, friend, boss, co-worker, parent, etc.).
19. Now think: what would be your ambitions or goals for each of these five primary roles?
20. What is a next step you could take in each of these roles that would be a step towards being “a noble one” who delights in others' journeys?
21. Finish your FIFTEEN by giving thanks to God that he doesn't ask us to journey alone. Pray for his help in using you to encourage the journeys of others!

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

22. The people we surround ourselves with *make a huge difference* in the way we walk and discover our paths. Who is someone who has blessed or encouraged you in your journey? Who is someone who has made your path more difficult?
23. Read Psalm 16:5-6. Who is the one relationship that norms all of our other relationships?
24. The psalmist talks about “boundary lines” that God gives us. Let's evaluate the boundary lines in our most important relationships. First, who are the 5-10 people you spend the most time with in a given week? Write them down. These are your “social atom.”

25. Now evaluate these relationships: Which relationships in your social atom are making you a better person? Which relationships are negatively affecting the person you want to become?

26. Who are the people you would like to spend more time with, because they help you to become better or because you help them to become better? Who are the people that you should start to spend less time with because you're not helping them and they're not helping you?

27. Who in your life do you want to start changing your relationship with so that you can be an encouragement to them?

28. Conclude your FIFTEEN by asking God to give you discernment to recognize unhealthy boundaries in your social atom and to give you his wisdom to start changing your relationships for the better.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

29. Have you ever known an old person who seemed to have serenity and peace in their last days? What do you think it is that helps someone be like that instead of just a cranky old coot?

30. Read Psalm 16:7-10. Who or what is driving the direction of the psalmist's life?

31. For us to chart a good path for our life, we need to know what goal we're heading towards. Relationally, ask yourself: "When I am 75, I want my spouse (children, friends, co-workers) to describe me as _____."

32. Professionally, "When I am 75, I would like to have accomplished these things in my career..."

33. Financially and physically, "When I am 75, I would like to have achieved _____ financial goals and feel _____ about my body..."

34. For each of those categories (Relational, Professional, Financial, Physical), choose and write down one simple step that you can start taking today.

35. For your final FIFTEEN this week, reread all of Psalm 16, asking God to lead you on his path of life and to help you be intentional about every step of the journey.